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SECURITY INFORMATION

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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COUNTRY Korea

DATE DISTR. 13 June 1952

SUBJECT Conditions in Hungnam

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INFO. [REDACTED]

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(LISTED BELOW)PLACE
ACQUIRED [REDACTED]SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. By 25 March 1952 United Nations air attack had rendered the airfield at Yŏnp'o (127-31, 39-47) (CV-7304) unusable (F-6).¹ Hangars and runways had been totally destroyed. Neither Chinese Communist nor North Korean soldiers were at the field.
2. United Nations air and naval bombardment had demolished the Hungnam nitrogen plant. The plant, which formerly employed three thousand persons, employed only two hundred persons in salvaging and removing machinery and equipment. The North Korean government did not plan to rebuild the plant.²
3. Approximately one-eighth of the pre-war population of Hungnam was living in the city in March 1952.
4. Smallpox, influenza, and recurrent or relapsing fever were prevalent in the Hungnam area. The hospital at Chagin-ni,³ 8 kilometers north of Hungnam, could accommodate only sixty persons at a time. The hospital, which did not charge patients for its services, was treating its patients with 606 Salvarsan⁴ once a week. Only a few of the hospitalized persons were dying. Damp and rat-ridden air-raid shelters, poor sanitary conditions, and inadequate nourishment contributed to the prevalence of disease.
5. Offices of the Hungnam branch of the North Korean Labor Party, the Hungnam People's Committee, the Democratic Youth Alliance, and the Women's Alliance were in caves at Chunki-ni, approximately 300 meters east of the Hungnam smelting factory. Despite constantly sinking morale, staff members of these organizations continued their propaganda efforts.

1. [REDACTED] Comment. On 8 April 1952 this field was possibly serviceable, according to information [REDACTED]

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- 25X1A 2. [REDACTED] Comment. It is not clear which of the Hungnam nitrogen plants is intended here. Production of fertilizer in March 1952 at Hungnam was reported in [REDACTED]. It is possible that either the waterfront plant or the Motomya plant of the Hungnam chemical complex has been destroyed, and that the other is producing fertilizer.
- 25X1A 3. [REDACTED] Comment. The reference may be to Ch'ain-ni (approximately 127-37, 39-53) or Ch'on'giri (approximately 127-37, 39-50).
- 25X1A 4. [REDACTED] Comment. The drug 606 Salvarsan is generally prescribed for jungle fever or syphilis rather than smallpox or typhus, which have been reported in many areas of North Korea.

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